

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 SCI-06 CU-04 DRC-01 EUR-25

HEW-08 AGR-20 EPA-04 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /198 W

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R 261125Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US EAID OGEN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY CLEARANCE FOR FOREIGN ACTIVITIES
IN EGYPT

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTS OUR COOPERATION IN CLEARING ALL PROPOSED USG ASSISTANCE OR RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH IT PRIOR TO DISCUSSING DETAILS WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES OR INSTITUTIONS. IT IS TAKING ACTION WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES/INSTITUTIONS REMINDING THEM OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S LEGISLATIVELY PRESCRIBED RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE ADEQUATE COORDINATION OF ANY PROJECTS INVOLVING FOREIGNERS AND ARRANGING REQUISITE SECURITY CLEARANCES. I AGREED TO COOPERATE. IN PAST USG AGENCIES HAVE UNWITTINGLY ABETTED PROBLEM BY DEALING DIRECTLY WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS, OFTENTIMES WITHOUT PROPER GOE CLEARANCE. INCREASED USG AGENCY INTEREST IN EGYPTIAN RESEARCH PROJECTS SEEMS LIKELY. IN PRINCIPLE, I ENDORSE SUCH RESEARCH PROJECTS PROVIDED THEY ARE (A) APPROVED BY GOE, (B) MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, (C) CONSISTENT WITH LOW PROFILE IMAGE WHICH WE WISH MAINTAIN HERE, AND (D) SUSCEPTIBLE TO ADEQUATE MONITORING TO AVOID ABUSE OR WASTEFUL DIPLICATION OF EFFORT. I RECOMMEND PREVIOUSLY
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IMPOSED CEILING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS BE MODESTLY RAISED

TO ABOUT \$4 MILLION IN FY '74 AND \$5 MILLION IN FY '75, AND THAT AN EFFECTIVE SCREENING MECHANISM BE DEVELOPED TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES AND ENSURE THAT PROJECTS FIT INTO POLICY GUIDELINES. THEREAFTER, ANY SUCH PROJECTS SHOULD FIRST BE CLEARED THROUGH THIS OFFICE TO OBTAIN NEEDED FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROVAL. DETAILS CAN THEN BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN INTERESTED USG AND EGYPTIAN DEPARTMENTS IN CONSULTATION WITH US. END SUMMARY.

2. WHEN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY MOHAMED RIAD A FEW DAYS AGO, HE BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF FOREIGN ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING US) IN EGYPT. HE EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY, SINCE ASSUMING THAT OFFICE FOUR MONTHS AGO, HAS INSTRUCTED HIM TO EXECUTE THE LEGISLATIVELY PRESCRIBED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO COORDINATE ALL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH, ETC. IN EGYPT. HE NOTED IN PAST YEARS THERE HAS BEEN TENDENCY ON PART OF MANY EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS UNIVERSITIES, TO MAKE ARRANGMENTS FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES ON THEIR OWN. HE CITED VARIOUS INSTANCES WHERE EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS HAVE DEALT DIRECTLY WITH BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, AMERICAN AND OTHERS.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, RIAD CONTINUED, BELIEVES SUCH UNCOORDINATED ACTIVITIES HAVE IN PAST LED TO WASTE, DUPLICATION AND, ON OCCASION, MORE SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS. IT IS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, RIAD POINTED OUT, THAT MUST ALSO ARRANGE WITH APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES FORMAL APPROVAL FOR FOREIGN PROJECTS OR OFFICIAL VISITORS. NEITHER OTHER MINISTRIES NOR UNIVERSITIES ARE EMPOWERED TO DO SO. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS REMINDED HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES HE EXPECTS THEM TO INSTRUCT THEIR SUBORDINATES TO FOLLOW PRESCRIBED RULES. RIAD NOTED HE HAD ALREADY ASKED FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND OTHER AMBASSADORS IN THIS EFFORT AND WAS NOW ASKING THE SAME OF ME. HE STRESSED IT IS NOT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PURPOSE TO HINDER OR OBSTRUCT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OR RESEARCH, BUT THAT ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES TO ENSURE THAT ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN PROPERLY COORDINATED WITH OTHER INTERESTED EGYPTIAN AGENCIES. I ASSURED HIM THE USG WILL COOPERATE WITH THIS OFFICIAL GOE REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY, WITH THE CONSIDERABLE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR DUTIES WHICH PRESIDENT SADAT

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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HAS VESTED IN HIM, IS CLEARLY SEEKING TO BRING SOME ORDER INTO THE CURRENT CHAOTIC EGYPTIAN SYSTEM OF ASKING FOR FOREIGN HELP. PRINCIPAL CULPRITS HAVE INDEED BEEN THE MINISTRIES AND THE EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES, WHICH HAVE OFTEN GONE OFF ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT COORDINATING WITHIN GOE OR OBTAINING ADEQUATE GOE CLEARANCE IN ARRANGING FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.

5. AS I LOOK OVER THE RECORD, OUR OWN USG AGENCIES HAVE SOMETIMES UNWITTINGLY ABETTED THIS CHAOS. DIRECT ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESEARCH OR OTHER TYPES OF COOPERATION HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN WORKED OUT DIRECTLY WITH MINISTRIES AND UNIVERSITIES. I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN GOOD FAITH ON ASSUMPTION SUCH MINISTRIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR SPHERES OF COMPETENCE. THEY ARE NOT. AS RIAD POLITELY BUT FIRMLY POINTED OUT, GOE CLEARANCE CAN ONLY BE GIVEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE RECENT CASE OF NSF DEVELOPING AN ELECTROMAGNETIC SOUNDER RESEARCH PROJECT WITH AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY IS A CASE IN POINT (CAIRO 866). THE AIN SHAMS PEOPLE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS TO EGYPTIAN SECURITY SENSITIVITIES, OR WERE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE A CALCULATED END RUN. I HOPE THIS PARTICULAR CASE CAN BE STRAIGHTENED OUT

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AND AM PREPARED TO ASSIST IN DOING SO. HOWEVER, CASE IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF DANGERS OF OBTAINING INADEQUATE GOE CLEARANCE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO FINALIZE PROJECTS.

6. IN PERIOD OF EXPANDING RELATIONSHIPS WHICH IS AHEAD, I ANTICIPATE AN INCREASED DESIRE ON THE PART OF USG AGENCIES SUCH AS DHEW, AGRICULTURE, EPA , NSF AND OTHERS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT, ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR EGYPTIAN POUND HOLDING CAN BE USED TO FINANCE THESE. I ENDORSE SUCH ACTIVITIES PROVIDED (A) THEY ARE APPROVED BY THE GOE, (B) THEY ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, (C) THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH ESTABLISHED USG POLICY OF MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE IN THIS COUNTRY, (D) THEY CAN BE ADEQUATELY MONITORED TO INSURE THERE IS NO ABUSE OF USG-OWNED FUNDS OR WASTEFUL DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

7. IN RECENT YEARS, BECAUSE OF STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AN ARBITRARY CEILING HAD TO BE SET BY THIS POST LIMITING RESEARCH PROJECTS TO ABOUT TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR. IN FACT, OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE FY '73 PROGRAM ABSORBED SLIGHTLY OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS AND THAT OF FY '74 WILL PROBABLY ABSORB ABOUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS. WITHIN THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH ABOVE, I SEE NO REASON WHY THIS CEILING SHOULD NOT BE MODESTLY RAISED SOMEWHAT DEPENDING IN PART UPON EGYPTIAN ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. I RECOMMEND THEREFORE A NEW CEILING OF FOUR MILLION DOLLARS BE TENTATIVELY ESTABLISHED IN FY '75, WHICH MIGHT BE FURTHER RAISED TO ABOUT FIVE MILLION IN FY '76 AND THEREAFTER. SUCH AN INCREASE WOULD ALSO ALLOW INCLUSION OF HIGH PRIORITY NEW PROJECTS. A RESEARCH PROGRAM LARGER THAN FIVE MILLION PER YEAR RISKS RAISING THE AGGREGATE US PROFILE TOO MUCH AND WILL PROBABLY EXHAUST FIRST CLASS EGYPTIAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RESOURCES.

8. IN PRINCIPLE, I AM PREPARED TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATE RESEARCH PROJECTS AND TO ASSIST IN THEIR EXECUTION. IN INTEREST OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, HOWEVER I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT A SCREENING AND COORDINATING MECHANISM BE WORKED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH INTERESTED

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USG AGENCIES TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES AND TO ASSURE THAT PROSPECTIVE PROJECTS FIT INTO POLICY GUIDELINES. MOREOVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIVE OF DECEMBER 9,

1969 TO AMBASSADORS TO COORDINATE ALL USG ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED, I REQUEST THAT SUCH PROJECTS FIRST BE CLEARED THROUGH ME. THIS WILL ALSO ENABLE NECESSARY FORMAL GOE APPROVAL TO BE OBTAINED AT THE OUTSET. ONCE THIS HAS BEEN DONE, DETAILS CAN BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN INTERESTED USG DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES AND APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES IN CONSULTATION WITH THIS OFFICE.

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTE THIS MESSAGE TO INTERESTED USG DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, SECURITY CLEARANCES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO00910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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